



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Mayor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

In the absence of the Mayor, the Town Clerk called for nominations for Chairperson pro tem. Councilor O'Beirne was nominated by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Sheets. There being no further nominations, the vote was 7 In Favor, 1 Opposed (O'Beirne) for Councilor O'Beirne.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Town Manager Mark Oefinger.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Recess for Public Hearing on:

Chairman Pro Tem O'Beirne called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

2009-0073 Sale of Buddington Road and North Road Parcels to City of Groton

Heard at Public Hearing

Chairman Pro Tem O'Beirne stated that these two parcels were acquired through the tax process in 1993. One parcel is near the reservoir and the other is land-locked. It was determined by the Town Council that these parcels will be offered for sale to the City of Groton.

There being no further comments, Chairman Pro Tem O'Beirne closed the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2009-0072 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of March 3, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2009-0061 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Various Donations - \$415.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Various Donations - \$512.01 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Kathryn Brown-Tracy in honor of Virginia Petrides - \$25.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2009-0062 Chelsea Groton Foundation Grant - Arts Cafe-Mystic

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0069 Public Hearing on Lease of Land - Former Eastern Point School

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0070 Public Hearing on Lease of Land - Former Colonel Ledyard School

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0071 Referral to Planning Commission Under CGS 8-24 - Lease of Eastern Point School Property

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Brown-Tracy received emails requesting the school budget be reduced to a 0% increase or below.

Councilor Monteiro received emails concerning the budget and the Wright legislation discussed recently (HB 5264).

Councilor Schmidt received emails regarding cutting the Board of Education and Groton Long Point Police Department budgets, an email announcing a Storm Water Workshop, and an email from Joe Courtney regarding the State Weatherization and State Efficiency/Energy Programs.

Councilor Sheets received an email recommending a 3% reduction in the education budget to achieve a net 0% increase in the overall budget, as well as the same emails mentioned earlier.

Councilor Bond received the same emails as other councilors.

Councilor Streeter received the same emails mentioned previously, as well as an email announcing that the Groton Town Police, in conjunction with the Groton Senior Center and Peoples United Bank, will be initiating a "yellow dot program". This program will allow seniors to place a yellow dot on their vehicle to alert emergency personnel that the driver's medical information is located in the glove compartment. As representatives of the Groton Historical Society, Councilor Streeter and Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox attended an expo of local historical societies.

Councilor Kolnaski attended two Ledge Light Health District meetings and a Permanent School Building Committee meeting. She mentioned that there will be a Town Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee meeting on March 18, 2009 and any concerns or questions should be forwarded to her.

Chairman Pro Tem O'Beirne received the same emails as previously discussed.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM will meet on March 18, 2009.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk has requested a referral to set the annual RTM Budget Meeting on April 29, 2009. Barbara Tarbox will be attending the 2009 Freedom of Information Conference in April 2009 and stated that any questions Councilors would like addressed at the conference should be forwarded to her.

d. Town Manager

The Board of Education budget book was distributed to the Council. The Town Manager stated that the Mystic Irish Parade will be held on March 22, 2009. He noted that there will be a beam signing ceremony for the new Senior Center on May 8, 2009, as the contractor will have most, if not all, of the steel erected. The Town Manager stated that there are no discussion items for the Committee of the Whole for March 24, 2009, and by consensus of the Council this meeting will be cancelled.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Chairman Pro Tem O'Beirne

The Committee of the Whole discussed the items on tonight's agenda. There was also a Special Committee of the Whole meeting March 17, 2009 with local legislators to discuss the State revenue and budget schedule. The Town of Groton will be almost through with its budget process before the State budget is approved; therefore a conservative approach will need to be taken to

estimate revenues.

The Town Manager stated that the governor's proposed budget calls for \$700,000 less in State aid and it is estimated that Federal aid will also be reduced by approximately \$700,000.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0062 Chelsea Groton Foundation Grant - Arts Cafe-Mystic

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT FROM THE CHELSEA GROTON FOUNDATION FOR ARTS CAFÉ - MYSTIC

WHEREAS, the Arts Café - Mystic program, which is now in its fifteenth year, is a national award-winning performance series that depends on grants for its operations each year, and

WHEREAS, the program needs funding to pay for featured writers, musicians and local voices for Fiscal Year 2009-10 performances, and

WHEREAS, a grant from the Chelsea Groton Foundation would help to fund such performances, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a grant of \$2,000 from the Chelsea Groton Foundation.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0069 Public Hearing on Lease of Land - Former Eastern Point School

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON LEASE OF TOWN PROPERTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to CGS Sec. 7-163e, effective October 1, 2007, the Town Council must conduct a public hearing on the proposed sale, lease, or transfer of real property owned by the Town, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed lease of property associated with the former Eastern Point School on Shennecossett Road, on April 7, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1. The proposed leasing of all or a portion of the property to LEARN is for the purpose of constructing a Marine Science High School of Southeastern Connecticut.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0071 Referral to Planning Commission Under CGS 8-24 - Lease of Eastern Point School Property

RESOLUTION REFERRING PROPOSED LEASE OF PROPERTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORMER EASTERN POINT SCHOOL TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, the Town Council refers the proposed lease of property associated with the former Eastern Point School on Shennecossett Road to the Planning Commission under Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0070

Public Hearing on Lease of Land - Former Colonel Ledyard School

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON LEASE OF TOWN PROPERTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to CGS Sec. 7-163e, effective October 1, 2007, the Town Council must conduct a public hearing on the proposed sale, lease, or transfer of real property owned by the Town, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed lease of property associated with the former Colonel Ledyard School on West Street, on April 7, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1. The Town is considering leasing all or a portion of the property to the City of Groton for municipal and/or associated uses.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Bond will be relocating outside the Town of Groton and read her resignation letter which becomes effective March 18, 2009.

On behalf of the Council, Chairman Pro Tem O'Beirne expressed his gratitude for Councilor Bond's service on the Town Council for the last six years.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Streeter and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant